



1



2

# GLOBAL GADABOUT

Story Peta Stavelli Photos Bruce Mountain

*There's a new kid in town. Peta Stavelli goes in search of Mr McRent and finds a good-news story for Kiwi buyers behind the recently introduced rental brand*

You will note from the above that this review of a Globebus T7 ex-rental vehicle comes with the prefix McRent. You may never have heard of the name. So what exactly is McRent, and how has the brand entered the New Zealand motorhome market?

McRent is the largest motorhome rental company in Europe. And just like the Dethleffs brand which developed it in 2004, McRent came out of Germany. It was introduced into this country by the New Zealand importer of the Dethleffs family of recreational vehicles, Zion Motorhomes, which is the rebranded name of Acacia Motorhomes.

Zion's South Island agent is UCC Motorhomes and Caravans, a company which under the stewardship of Rob Floris has become well known for its own brand of high-quality New Zealand manufactured motorhomes. UCC is still turning out these well-respected motorhomes, but when the company began looking around for a European import to add to its livery of new and second-hand recreational vehicles, the UCC team decided the Dethleffs brand would be the perfect fit.

The partnership has flourished; and as a natural extension of the sale of the Dethleffs, Frankia, Neismann+Bischoff and Morelo motorhomes, has come the addition of the rental fleet under the McRent banner. And with that has come the added bonus for Kiwi consumers of good-quality ex-rental vehicles,

exactly like the one currently under review: the Globebus T7.

Globebus offers a range of low-profile and A-class models. The T7 is a compact and sporty low-profile vehicle just less than seven metres in length, but cleverly designed to include all the features of a larger motorhome in an agile three-berth vehicle perfect for touring.

One of the first things you will notice is that this vehicle lacks nothing you would expect

to find in a larger motorhome. Here you will find a rear island bed with his 'n' hers 'robos either side; and with a privacy door creating an ensuite – on one side is the shower, and on the other the toilet and hand basin.

Step amidships and you will enter the compact European-style galley which offers all of the bells and whistles in a corner galley that is so well designed you could be forgiven for thinking this was a much larger vehicle.



3

1. Seating for four, possibly more, adjustable height table for the second berth, swivel cab seats are so handy  
2. A new name in town, these vehicles offer RV owners a new option for the competitive price, low kms and lots of extras with awning/TV and more  
3. The kitchen is compact, overhead locker storage above, and more below the bench unit



4

On one side you have the hob and sink with under-bench stove, and across the way a 142L fridge. The clever inverse curve of the cabinetry not only looks elegant, it also creates a feeling of space and removes the possibility of banging into sharp corners when cooking up a feast.

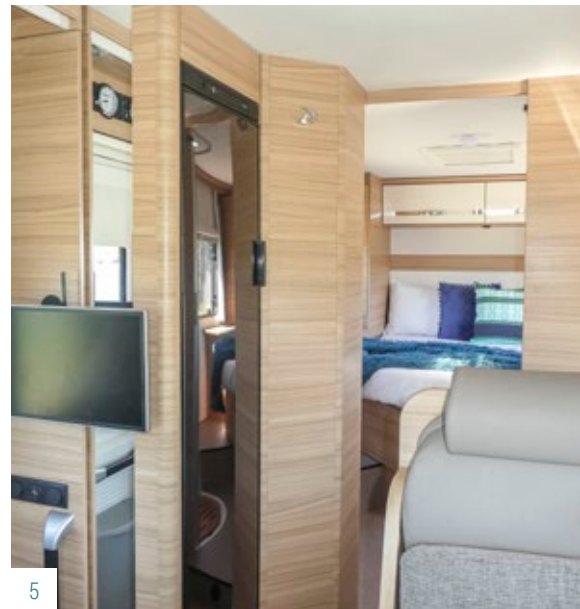
Backing on to this bench is the L-shaped sofa seat surrounding the table. This can convert to a 1550mm x 950mm bed, if desired, by deploying the sofas, together with the small bench seat opposite. Of course the table setting is completed with swivelling captain's chairs from the driver cab.

This vehicle is built on a Fiat chassis with a 2.3-litre multi-jet engine offering plenty of power when underway. The whole handsome package can be driven on a standard car licence, and it's the perfect vehicle for providing a fast getaway. I have previously driven one across Christchurch so I can testify to that. The vehicle comes with plenty of internal power points to cover all of your 230 volt and 12 volt devices. Outside, there's access to a huge garage to stash away all of your playthings.

Finally a word on why ex-rental vehicles can be a great entry point for newcomers to the RV lifestyle. Forget the notion that these vehicles have been thrashed; consider instead that the vendor's reputation depends on them being well-maintained – both to ensure the welfare of rental clients and to retain the vehicle in sale-worthy condition. I have seen many truly excellent ex-rental vehicles offered for sale in the New Zealand marketplace. And having personally tested the driveability of the Globebus T7, this is certainly one of them. **RV**



7



5



6

## GLOBEBUS T7 LOW PROFILE

- Price:** \$119,990
- Chassis:** Fiat "automatic" 130hp, 2.3L Multi-jet
- Berths:** 3
- Length:** 6989mm
- Width:** 2190mm
- Height:** 2810mm
- Interior height:** 1980mm
- Engine:** Fiat 130hp, 2.3L Multi-jet
- Mass in running order:** 2880kg
- Payload:** 619kg
- Maximum weight:** 3499kg
- Heating:** Truma Combi 6E
- Freshwater:** 114L
- Grey water:** 90L
- Fridge/freezer:** 142L



8

- 4. A large island bed in its own private bedroom with wardrobes, overhead storage, big windows to look out - what more do you want?
- 5. The habitation door is on the right driver side, as you step up the dining/lounge opposite, kitchen in behind, large 145L fridge/freezer then bathroom beside it mid-ship. Island bed in separate bedroom in the rear. Nice light interior finish
- 6. Great sized bathroom with separate toilet and shower spaces, room to dress even and its own storage spaces as well
- 7. A large storage area, tie downs to secure items, power and lights – plenty of space back here
- 8. Under 7 metres this German model might be what you are looking for under \$120K